

The Great Tribulation, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Daniel 12:1-3.
- B. Faith, hope and love are critical to the believer's thinking.
- C. Hope is essential to all meaningful life.
- D. Hope is especially important to those who suffer.
- E. God never gives up on His people until they are purified.

II. During the time of Armageddon, the people could have hope.

A. There will be a special distress. (Exodus 9:18-24)

- 1. The worst is yet to come for Israel. (Matthew 24:15, Deuteronomy 4:30)
- 2. In the final act, God is purging Israel. (Zechariah 12:2-3, Jeremiah 30:4, Zechariah 12:18)

B. There will be a special defender.

- 1. Michael stands up for the people of God.
- 2. Satan has always wanted to wipe out the people of God. (Revelation 12:1)
- 3. God protects the people through war in heaven.

C. There will be a special deliverance.

- 1. All Israel will be saved when the persecution is the worst. (Jeremiah 30)
- 2. The godly remnant is those that are preserved. (Ezekiel 20:33, Revelation 12:17)
- 3. It is a personal deliverance that happens on a national scale.

D. There will be a special destiny.

- 1. The climax for the tribulation is resurrection.
- 2. Resurrection has been the hope all along. (Hebrews 11:19, Isaiah 26:13, Hosea 19)
- 3. The resurrection will be for life and for contempt. (Revelation 20:2)

4. Believers will receive glorified bodies during the resurrection of life. (Acts 24:15, John 5:29, Hebrews 11:35)

a. Christ will rise as the first fruits.

b. The church rises at the Rapture.

c. The Old Testament saints and Tribulation saints will be raised. (John 5:28)

E. There will be a special dividend.

1. Believers will receive the glory that accompanies the kingdom.

2. God wants us to be faithful in preaching the gospel until that time. (Philippians 2:15)

Application questions:

1. How can great hope occur in a moment of great distress?

2. What is the relationship between the personal conversion of Jews and the national conversion that will take place?

3. How would you explain the resurrection that will take place in all its facets?
